

Discussion to Focus on Local Law Enforcement and Public Health Perspective; Will Help Shape National Drug Policy

Las Cruces, NM -Congressman Harry Teague and Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director R. Gil Kerlikowske will host a roundtable discussion today, Monday, August 10th from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. regarding national drug control policy and strategy. The roundtable, which is the second of eight regional meetings with public health and safety leaders from communities around the country, will take place at NMSU.

"Southern New Mexico is home to many border communities and we have unique issues when it comes to implementing drug policy," said Congressman Harry Teague. "So it was important to me that Director Kerlikowske come to Las Cruces to hear from the experts that deal with these issues everyday. This roundtable is an important first step in making sure laws and strategies are relevant to our community."

In the interest of fostering frank discussion, the first hour of the meeting will be closed to press. However, media are invited to attend the last 15 minutes of the roundtable discussion, from 4:30 to 4:45 p.m. Following the event, Congressman Harry Teague and Director Kerlikowske will be available to the media to discuss the event and answer questions.

DATE: Monday, August 10th

MEETING BEGINS: 3:30 p.m.

MEETING OPENS TO MEDIA: 4:30 p.m.

PRESS AVAILABILITY: 4:45-5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: NMSU, Otero Room, Corbett Center Student Union

ONDCP will be hosting eight regional meetings with community leaders from around the country. The feedback from these discussions will help form the Obama administration's first National Drug Control Strategy, to be published in February.